



Lake Borgne Shoreline Protection at Bayou Dupre (PO-31)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2002
Project Area: 98 acres
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 83 acres
Project Type: Shoreline Protection

Cost: \$11.9 million
Status: Engineering
 and Design

Location

The project is located in the Pontchartrain Basin on the southwest shoreline of Lake Borgne in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

The narrow strip of marsh between Lake Borgne and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) in the vicinity of Bayou Dupre is disappearing. An opening between the lake and MRGO is approximately 550 feet wide, and the shoreline erosion rate in the area has been estimated to be about 10 feet per year. At this rate, the opening at Bayou Dupre will be 2,300 feet in 20 years, and interior marsh loss is likely to only accelerate this process. This project is necessary to restore and maintain the narrow strip of land that remains between Lake Borgne and MRGO. The project would address the problem by creating marsh that would protect the Lake Borgne shoreline.

Restoration Strategy

The project's objectives include: preventing and reducing Lake Borgne shoreline retreat in the area adjacent to Bayou Dupre to mitigate further joining of the lake and MRGO; reestablishing a sustainable lake rim; preventing or reducing conversion of emergent marsh to open water; and creating a suitable area for the beneficial use of dredged material removed from MRGO.

Continuous nearshore rock breakwaters will be constructed 1.2 miles to the east and 1.6 miles to the west of Bayou Dupre. The breakwaters will tie into those already present along the north bank of MRGO and extend into the lake to the 2-foot contour depth line. There will be openings in the breakwaters at a minimum of every 1,000 feet, and offset breakwaters will be built in front of these openings.



Fort Proctor, an old Civil War fortification, is a unique historical element that will be protected by this project.



A narrow, deteriorating strip of marsh separates MRGO (left side of picture) and Lake Borgne (upper right). The community of Shell Beach, just out of view to the left, is becoming increasingly vulnerable as land loss continues.

Progress to Date

This project was selected for Phase I (engineering and design) funding at the January 2002 Breaux Act Task Force meeting. It is included as part of Priority Project List 11.

For more project information, please contact:





Federal Sponsor:
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 Baton Rouge, LA
 (214) 665-6722



Local Sponsor:
 Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
 Baton Rouge, LA
 (225) 342-7308

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**Shoreline Protection**

**Project Boundary**



Map Produced By:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station

Background Imagery:
1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangles
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